

John 28 – Belief Not Enough for Salvation

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John 8:31-49

Jesus Addresses Assumed *Believers*

- Mistaken assumption: belief is enough for salvation; “You only need to believe!”
 - Oversimplification of Jesus’ teachings
 - Under clarification of salvation
 - Emphasis upon the *prayer* and not upon the *change*
 - Basically, it’s a false doctrine of salvation
- Jesus lost more believers than He attracted

Remember Feeding the 5,000

- Crowd Jesus fed was ready to declare Him Messiah and follow Him to victory based on a false belief system (Jn. 6:145)
 - They were ready to crown Jesus against His will
 - Jesus absent Himself by crossing the Galilean Sea
 - As Jesus defined true belief they abandoned Him
 - Later in Capernaum synagogue He challenged His disciples and nearly all left Him: Wrong belief (Jn. 6:60-66)

Only Two Belief Systems

Sovereignty

- God changes you *ergo* you believe (2Co. 5:17)
- Salvation solely the work of the Father (Jo. 5:27; 6:44-46)
- Evidence of the change - Abba {Daddy} (Ro. 8:15; Ga. 4:6)

Arminianism

- You cannot change you *ergo* you remain lost (Ro. 4:1-9)
- If you can change; Christ died needlessly (Ga. 2:20-21)
- All false belief systems based on man's will

Jesus Clarifies Faith

- Jews may accept His words but did not understand their import - No different from Christians today
 - Abide (μένω) - Remain chained to Christ, the Rock
 - Aorist Subjunctive mood shows you are His disciple as you cannot unchain yourself from His belief system
 - Saved nature is of God and always remains in Christ
 - Lost nature is of sin and always returns to sin (Pt. 16:11; 1Pt. 2:19-20)

Belief - Process of Change

- Belief is not static, a state of mind, but a change of self
 - Knowing the truth, future middle indicative, indicating change is ongoing, a continual process that is outside of one's self (1Co. 13:12)
 - It is truth that sets one free, future active indicative, showing truth frees the believer, not the believer freeing himself, with a future goal

Believers Denied Enslavement

- Those who *claimed* to believe Him denied ever being enslaved, once again hearers are talking empirically and Christ is speaking spiritually
 - These hearers may not have been slaves
 - Historically, the nation went into Diaspora (slavery) for seventy years before returning as a province of Persia because of their sin and rejection of God's word

Christ Clarifies His Position

- Jesus must speak to these people in simple terms for them to understand the concept of slavery to sin
 - Each entity is a slave to one's nature: sin or saved
 - Though descended from Abraham they are lost and *ergo* slaves to their sin nature: Physical heritage impotent
 - One *knows* which nature one has by one's thoughts, words and deeds; they reject God's truth *ergo* lost in sin

Veiled Warning of Unbelief

- Remember, this dialogue is occurring on the Great Day corresponding to the last judgment
 - Jesus tells them they will not remain in the *house*, God's chosen people, if they remain in sin; reject Jesus' truth
 - Physical death, or Christ's return, makes one's nature permanent: lost stay lost for eternity
- Abraham does not determine their nature; it is Son of God who determines their nature, remains in the *house*

Freedom is Freedom from Sin

- Freedom confused in English {absolute} but clearly defined in Greek {boundaries}
- Son sets you free, aorist active subjunctive, shows it is the Son who changes you to hear the truth, or you cannot be changed
- Once you are changed, it is an ongoing permanent change that cannot be undone by any process, future middle indicative, a process outside of one's self

Christ Speaks Empirically

- Christ acknowledges they physically descended from Abraham; however, spiritually they rejected Abraham
- Christ charges that they seek to kill Him (Jewish hierarchy does seek to murder Him)
- Proves that His word has no place in them; i.e., lost
- Also proves that their belief is of self, not God
- *Ergo*, they are not truly His disciples but follow another

Look at Abraham's Truth Gen 15

- Everything preceding in Genesis builds to this event; rest of the Bible shows God fulfilling His Promise
- God comes to Abram in a vision promising great reward
- Abram says he has no children to fulfill God's promise
- God tells Abram to go outside, his descendants will be as the stars of the sky
- On *no other proof* Abram believed God - Salvation

Paul Looks to Abraham (Ro- 4:1-12)

- Paul uses this event showing Abraham saved only by faith of that which remained future, even to us today (He 11:1)
 - Jews put great value on circumcision as sign of their faith
 - Paul shows that God gave Abraham circumcision only as a seal of the faith Abraham already exhibited (Ge 17:10-11)
 - Thus, Abraham experienced an inner change that resulted in outward evidence (Ge 15:6)

Abraham Father of *All* Faithful

- Paul makes the point that Abraham is not the exclusive property of the Jews; by his faith he became the father of **all** who believe - New Covenant
 - Jews came through Abraham
 - Christ came through Jews
 - Salvation from Christ flows to **all** who believe {called}
 - There is only one truth, one faith, one Father (1J 4:4)

Christ Makes His Point

- This pivotal passage implies there are only two faiths
 - Christ speaks what He has heard from His Father
 - They speak what they hear from their father {not God}
- The words show the source of each one's truth, or lies
 - Christ speaks truth of God which they reject
 - *Ergo*, they must speak the *lies* of their father {not God}

Abraham Our Father

- Jews reject Christ falling back to their position as descendants of Abraham; thus, works of the Law
 - Christ refutes their claim saying Abraham believed God
 - Christ tells them the words He heard directly from God
 - They hate Him, seek to kill Him; ergo, they are not doing the works of Abraham and condemn themselves
 - They are the very definition of *False Jews*

Only Two Jewish Types (John 4:21-27)

True Jews

- Are chosen of God
- Ergo, they believe the Son
- Lives evidence their faith
- Physical and spiritual descendants of Abraham

False Jews

- Are not chosen of God
- Ergo, they hate the Son
- Lives evidence their faith
- Physical descendants of Abraham, hate *True Jews*

Only Two Gentile Types (John 4:21-27)

True Gentiles

- Are chosen of God
- Ergo, they believe the Son
- Lives evidence their faith
- Spiritual descendants of Abraham

False Gentiles

- Are not chosen of God
- Ergo, they hate the Son
- Lives evidence their faith
- Not physical descendants of Abraham, hate believers

Only Two Belief Systems

God

- God changes you *ergo* you believe (2Co 5:17)
- Salvation solely the work of the Father (Jo 5:27; 6:44-46)
- Evidence of the change - Abba {Daddy} (Ro 8:15; Ga 4:6)

Not God

- You cannot change you *ergo* you remain lost (Ro 4:1-9)
- If you can change; Christ died needlessly (Ga 2:20-21)
- All other belief systems not of God

Law of Excluded Middle

- Notice, there is no *third* position: Belief or Unbelief
 - One either is changed by God and believes with outward evidence {seen} of one's inner change {not seen} (Jo 2:21-23)
 - Or, one is not changed by God with outward evidence {seen} of their sin {not seen}
- Belief alone is not sufficient for salvation, must be seen
 - Demons believe but they have no salvation (Ja 2:19-20)

Simply Being Jewish No Defense

- Christ, nor any Bible writer, blends Jews and Gentiles into one people; poor hermeneutics → poor eschatology
 - Being saved does not make one a Jew, not Paul's belief
 - Saved Jews are simply Christians, and in the Church
 - When Church is raptured, *False* Jews/Gentiles revealed
 - God will call His *True* Jews forth to preach salvation
 - This is *Great Tribulation* leading to *Millennial Kingdom*